

Export of Sugar Under O.G.L.

1613. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal from the State Governments particularly from the Government of Maharashtra seeking export of sugar under the Open General Licence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in view of the record production of sugar and the high cost of inventory carrying the export quota of sugar is proposed to be given to the sugar producing States on the pattern of export quota being given under the O.G.L.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Maharashtra vide letter dated 6th July, 1996 has requested that minimum 30 to 40 lakh tonnes of sugar may be released from Maharashtra for export and this export may please be allowed through Open General Licence to provide great relief to the sugar factories in liquidating their surplus stocks.

(c) and (d) Consequent upon the promulgation of the Sugar Export Promotion (Repeal) Ordinance, 1997 on 15.1.1997, the export of sugar has been decanalised whereby export can be carried out by individuals, firms, sugar factories, etc. after getting registration Allocation Certificates from the Agricultural Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) within the ceiling prescribed by the Ministry of Food.

Cleaning of Rivers

1614. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any plan from the Government of Orissa for cleaning of rivers and environmental improvement of the towns;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the plan has been posed for the foreign assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pollution abatement schemes for river Mahanadi at Cuttack and for river Brahmini at Talcher, Chandbali and Dharamshala towns have been received from Govt. of Orissa. These schemes have been approved as part of the National River Conservation Plan. Work on the scheme has begun.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Seeds Policy

1615. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to have a fresh look at the Seeds Policy instead of leaving the field for the private sector;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures contemplated to raise the seed replacement rate for the self-pollinated crops such as wheat and rice to ensure additional production by invoking higher productivity per unit of land and natural resources ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The Government have constituted a Seed Policy Review Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. V.V. Rao, Vice-Chancellor, Andhra Pradesh Agriculture University to review the existing seed policy.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The projections for certified seed distribution for the IX plan envisage a higher seed replacement rate than has hitherto been achieved. This is sought to be done through the following measures :

(a) Subsidy on distribution of certified seeds is provided under crop development schemes to encourage farmers to use certified seed.

(b) Transport subsidy is given for distribution of certified seeds in north-eastern States and for not easily accessible and remote areas of all states.

(c) Use of certified seed is promoted through certified seed demonstrations and farmers' training programme.

(d) New varieties suited to different agro-climatic conditions are periodically released and popularised through minikit programmes and frontline demonstrations.

Vacant Posts of Scientists

1616. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts of scientists at the senior level and research management categories filled since the recommendations of the Mandal Commission were adopted by the Government;

(b) the number out of these posts reserved for the OBCs and SC/ST categories; and

(c) the number of posts actually filled and the number of posts lying vacant ?